



## Weekly Bulletin – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Headteacher's Message

Since I wrote to you last week to request your help with implementing our protective measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus as far as possible, there has been a noticeable improvement. I thank you for your support by arriving on the school site at the correct time, by ensuring that only one adult accompanies children to school and by leaving the school site and surrounding area **immediately** once you have dropped off or collected children.

By following these simple rules, you are helping to keep children, staff and the wider community safe.

Our Christmas activities begin next week and there are a few reminders and updates below.

I hope you are all able to enjoy some relaxation and enjoyment with your loved ones this weekend. Stay safe and stay well.

Best wishes

Mr Tait

### Covid-19 Test Results

I remind parents to **inform school immediately of any Covid-19 test results**. You can telephone the school office between 9am and 4pm Monday and Friday or use the school email address: [shincliffe@durhamlearning.net](mailto:shincliffe@durhamlearning.net) at other times. Please use 'COVID-19 TEST RESULT' in the subject line of your email.

### Christmas Arrangements

Please see below for details

#### Christmas Lunch

*Thursday 10th December*

Our Kitchen team will be cooking a traditional Christmas lunch for the children and staff to enjoy in class bubbles. This will also be Christmas Jumper Day and children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper. If you don't have a Christmas jumper you can wear Christmas colours like red or green. All other uniform must still be worn. Children are invited to donate a suggested amount of £1 via Parent Pay. The collected donation will be sent on to the Save the Children charity.

#### Christmas Parties

*Week beginning 14th December*

The children are invited to come to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their party. The children will have party games and fun activities within their class bubbles. We will provide children with a snack as we are unable to accept donations of food into school. Each child will receive a gift of a book thanks to the support of FOSS.

Monday 14th December- Year 3  
Tuesday 15th December- Year 2 and Year 6  
Wednesday 16th December- Reception and Year 1  
Thursday 17th December- Year 5 and Year 4

### **International Christmas and Craft Week**

*Week beginning 7th December*

Children in each class will be enjoying a variety of Christmas craft activities during the course of this week. We will also be celebrating Christmas internationally, with each class linked to a different country. The children will then be able to take these crafts home for their families to share and enjoy.

Our classes are linked to the following countries:

Reception – France  
Year 1 – Italy  
Year 2 – Scandinavian countries  
Year 3 – Germany  
Year 4 – Cameroon and Kenya  
Year 5 – Portugal and Brazil  
Year 6 – Range of countries from around the world

### **Christmas Services and Nativity Performances**

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions and protective measures, we are unable to welcome any external visitors to school and singing is not permitted unless distanced outside or in small groups. We are therefore unable to hold our usual Christmas Worship or nativities this year. Each class bubble will share in a Christingle Service within class and Year 6 will prepare Christmas worship with retelling of the Christmas story for the whole school.

### **Christmas Cards**

We know that the children enjoy sharing cards with one another. To comply with Covid guidance, Christmas cards will need to be quarantined before distribution. We request, therefore, that all cards are brought into school between Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. They will then be distributed week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December following quarantine. We ask that children only bring Christmas cards for distribution within their class bubble.

### **Gifts for Staff**

The generosity of parents at this time of year is always appreciated although in no way expected. Any gifts sent into school would need to be quarantined. Therefore, we invite parents this year to make a donation to FOSS in lieu of any gifts for staff. There will be a payment item available via ParentPay in December if you wish to make a donation. The Covid situation has impacted on FOSS significantly as they have been unable to hold the usual Christmas Shopping Evening and Christmas Fair this year. Any donations would make up for this shortfall in income and continue to allow us to continue to provide 'extras' for the children.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas, the coming of the Prince of Peace, as we continue to support each other as a school community during these difficult days.

### **Covid-19 key messages from Durham County Council**

*Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*

Good regular hand washing is one of the most important prevention and protective measures anyone can take. The more you do it and the better you do it, the more protected you are. The coronavirus is covered in fatty particles and these are attracted to soap particles and will attach themselves to the soap particles any chance they get. In turn, soap particles are more attracted to water molecules and attach to them. This means that as the soap and water are washed away down the sink, they take the virus with it. Remember to wash your hands after you blow your nose, sneeze or cough, before you eat or handle food and after using the toilet. Often used on the go, hand sanitizers containing alcohol can kill bacteria, viruses and germs by breaking down and dissolving their membrane and proteins. Hand sanitiser must have an alcohol content of 61% or more to be useful and is not a replacement for good handwashing.

*Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*

Hands can pick up lots of dirt, bacteria and a whole host of other things in a short space of time. If your hands come into contact with a coronavirus infected surface, the virus will be transferred onto your hands. This will not infect you; the virus still needs to make its way into your body. The easiest way in is through your eyes, nose, and mouth. Keeping your hands off your eyes, nose, and mouth is another simple way to protect yourself. If you need to touch your face, wash your hands first.

*Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.*

If someone is infected with Coronavirus, then the moisture in their breath and saliva will contain the virus. These droplets don't travel very far which is why two metres social distancing rules are in place. However, when you cough or sneeze droplets from your mouth and nose can travel much further. To stop this from happening use a tissue to catch the droplets. The tissue will now be covered in germs so throw the tissue in a bin. If you don't have a tissue use the crook of your arm. Remember to wash your hands after you blow your nose, sneeze or cough.

*If you have a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in your sense of smell or taste, get a test.*

Did you know that not everyone knows all the symptoms of Coronavirus? It's important to know the symptoms, that way you can protect yourself and your family. Do you know them? They are; a new continuous cough, where you cough a lot for more than an hour, or have three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours; a high temperature, where your temperature is above 37.8°C; or a change in your sense of smell or taste. Did you also know that if you, or someone you live with, has any of these symptoms the advice is stay at home to stop the risk of giving coronavirus to others, and arrange to get a coronavirus test. There are two ways to arrange a test – you can [book a coronavirus test online](#) or call 119 if you have no internet access.

*If you have symptoms you must arrange a test and self-isolate.*

As soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, you should stay home and self-isolate for at least ten days. Anyone else in your household should also stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. By doing this you will be automatically protecting your family and friends and the wider community. The virus needs to be passed between people for it to survive. Self-isolation stops any contact with others and limits the virus' opportunity to pass between people. This is a very important step if we want to reduce the chances of spreading the virus. You should arrange to get a coronavirus test. There are two ways to arrange a test – you can [book a coronavirus test online](#) or call 119 if you have no internet access.

*If you test positive you must self-isolate.*

If your test is positive you must complete the remainder of your ten day self-isolation. Anyone in your household should also complete their self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. By doing this you will continue to protect your family and friends and the wider community

from coronavirus. If you need help during this time and you don't have friends, family or neighbours to help, we can put you in touch with organisations through the County Durham Community Hub who'll be able to help you through this time. The most up-to-date information can be seen by following this link [www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help) Alternatively you can contact them by phone on 03000 260 260 between 9.00am until 5.00pm Monday to Friday or via email at [communityhub@durham.gov.uk](mailto:communityhub@durham.gov.uk) (If your test is negative, you and other household members no longer need to isolate).

*If you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace Service you must self-isolate.*

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus you will receive a call or text from the NHS Test and Trace Service. (Under 18's will get a phone call and a parent or guardian will be asked to give permission for the call to continue). You will be asked to begin self-isolation for up to 14 days, depending on when you last came into contact with the person who has tested positive. It's really important to do this even if you don't feel unwell, because it can take up to 14 days for the symptoms to develop. Remember we don't want the virus to spread so although this may be disruptive for you, it is less disruptive than an outbreak of coronavirus and far less disruptive than a local lockdown. By doing this you will continue to protect your family and friends and the wider community from coronavirus.

### **Sports Premium Funding**

It is the school's vision, in line with the government's provision for school sport, that children leaving primary school should be physically literate and with the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary to equip them for a healthy, active lifestyle and lifelong participation in physical activity and sport. Mr Gowan leads our sports provision within school. He has undertaken a considerable amount of work to ensure that PE this term complies with all of the Government's Covid measures.

We measure the effectiveness of sports provision against 5 key indicators:

1. The engagement of all pupils in regular physical activity
2. The profile of PE and sport being raised across the school.
3. Increased confidence, knowledge and skills of all staff in teaching PE and sport.
4. Broader experience of a range of sport and activities offered to all pupils.
5. Increased participation in competitive sport.

The Sports Premium page on the school website details the way in which we spend our Sports Premium Funding. It contains details of the activities undertaken by the pupils and our work with the School Sports Partnership. Please do look at the website information.

### **Christian Values**

We are exploring the value of compassion with worship led in each class by teachers and children. We thank Fr. Peter and Fr. Bill for sharing weekly videos during this time when whole school gatherings are not permitted.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Weekly Bulletin by e-mail please e-mail the school. [Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Shincliffece@durhamlearning.net)

The Weekly Bulletins from previous weeks can be found in the parents' section of the website.

## Can my child go to school today?

### Do they have any COVID Symptoms?

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**Yes**  
They have a COVID symptom

### Self Isolate and Book a COVID Test

Book the test online or call 119

All members of the household should stay at home until the test result is known.\*

\* Visit gov.uk for advice on when to stop isolating and return to school after a positive or negative test.

**No**  
They do not have a COVID symptom

### Do they have diarrhoea or vomiting?

**No**  
They do not have diarrhoea or vomiting

**Yes**  
They have diarrhoea or vomiting

### Do they feel unwell?

It is important that parents keep children at home when they are unwell

**No**  
They do not feel unwell

**Yes**  
They feel unwell

### Send to School

So long as your child feels well, has not been told to self-isolate and there are no other household members with COVID symptoms, it is OK for them to attend school.

### Keep at Home

- Remain off school until they feel well enough to return. Seek medical help from a GP if needed (or 111 if your surgery is closed).
- Remain off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. A COVID test is not required for diarrhoea and vomiting without the other symptoms above.